

NATHANIEL MICHLER,

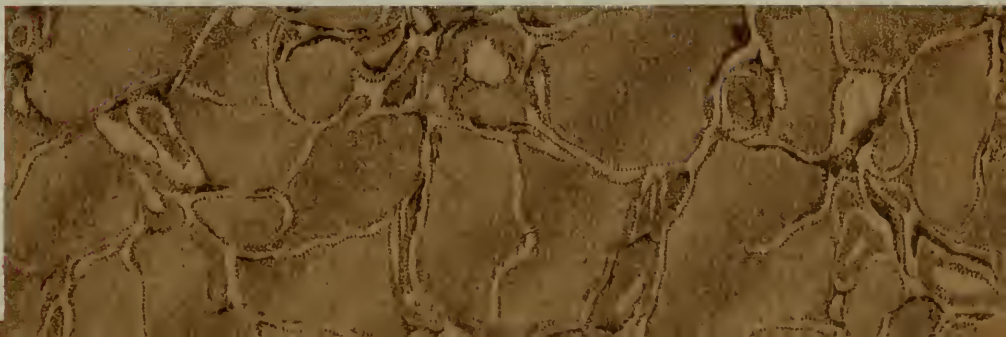
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In Memory

OF

NATHANIEL MICHLER.

BORN SEPTEMBER 13th, 1827.

DIED JULY 17th, 1881.

Aged

53 YEARS, 10 MONTHS, AND 5 DAYS.





# In Memoriam.

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*TO LIVE IN HEARTS WE LEAVE BEHIND  
IS NOT TO DIE.*

CAMPBELL.



IN MEMORY OF  
NATHANIEL MICHLER.

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BREVET BRIG.-GEN'L NATHANIEL MICHLER, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, was born on the 13th day of September, 1827, at Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. He was the great-grandson of the Rev. John Wolfgang Michler, "a minister of the Gospel of the Moravian Society, who with his wife emigrated to America in 1743, and labored as a missionary in that quiet, useful, and unobtrusive fraternity, in various places in Pennsylvania, and finished his work upon earth at Lebanon." He was the grandson of Nathaniel Michler, who for many years occupied positions of official trust under the government of Pennsylvania, and son of the Hon. Peter S. Michler, known throughout the State for his enterprise and legislative ability, and for that enlarged benevolence of heart which made him alike the friend of rich and poor. His

mother was Mary Howell, daughter of Eseck Howell, of Easton, and granddaughter of John Hart, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

General Michler's education was commenced at Nazareth Hall, where he was sent at the age of nine years, and remained for four years. His preceptors at that early age discerned in him a promise of the energy and ability which always distinguished him in after-life. Leaving Nazareth, he entered Lafayette College at fourteen, making for himself an honorable record there, and although not graduating at the institution, the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Arts were afterwards conferred upon him by the Faculty. At the end of his junior year, upon the recommendation of his uncle, the Hon. James M. Porter, Secretary of War, and the Hon. Richard Brodhead, Senator from Pennsylvania, he received an appointment to West Point. In 1848 he graduated with honor at the Military Academy, and was appointed Brevet Second Lieutenant, Corps of Topographical Engineers.

His first service was in Texas and New Mexico, as Assistant Topographical Engineer, in making surveys and reconnoissances. The excellence of his work demonstrating to his superiors his ability, he was appointed Topographical Engineer on the Mexican Boundary Survey, being especially charged with the establishment of that portion of the line on the Rio Grande River from Fort Vincent to the mouth of the Pecos. He was subsequently in 1854 assigned to the duty of running and marking the boundary line under the Gadsden Treaty, from the Colorado River east to the 111th meridian. He completed, through many dangers and difficulties, this very important and arduous work, and added to his already fine reputation as a reliable and accurate engineer.

The project of an inter-oceanic ship canal having attracted the attention of far-seeing capitalists, and the manifest importance of the work, both to commerce and the General Government, becoming more and more evident, it was decided to make the necessary surveys to determine upon

the feasibility of the undertaking. He was honored in being solicited by private enterprise, and in recognition of his previous works and eminent fitness for the position, was selected by the Government to examine and report upon the great project. His reports to the Government demonstrate with what accuracy this work was accomplished.

By request of the States of Maryland and Virginia, he was next engaged in establishing and running the boundary line between these States. He was then having only the rank of Lieutenant, assigned to duty, relieving Col. Hartman Bache as Light-House Engineer of the Pacific Coast.

Upon the breaking out of the Rebellion, he at once applied for active service in the field, and made a request to the Governor of his native State for command of a regiment of volunteers; but the Department refused to consent to his accepting such an appointment, having need of his services in the Engineer Corps. He was immediately assigned to duty as Chief Topographical



Engineer in the Departments and Armies of the Ohio and the Cumberland, participating in the various movements and engineer operations of these departments and armies, including the battles of Murfreesboro' and Shiloh, where he was slightly wounded. In June, 1863, he was transferred to the Army of the Potomac, and en route was taken prisoner and paroled. He was afterwards placed in charge of the surveys of Harper's Ferry and vicinity, and constructing defenses on Maryland Heights. On September 20th, 1863, he was placed in charge of the Topographical Department of the Army of the Potomac, where he remained until the close of the war. He was engaged on various reconnoissances and defensive works, and participated in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court-House, action of Hawes' Shop, battle of Tolopotomy, battles and actions of Cold Harbor, sieges and battles about Petersburg, and battle of Sailor's Creek, and was present at the capitulation of General Lee with the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court-House. He was breveted Lieutenant-Colonel for "faithful and meri-



torious services" in the field, Colonel for "gallant and meritorious services" during the siege of Petersburg, and Brigadier-General for "gallant and meritorious services" during the Rebellion.

After the war, he was engaged in making surveys and maps of the battle-fields and operations of the armies in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina, and during the progress of this work was detailed to make the necessary surveys and drawings for the determination of a site for a new Presidential mansion and grounds. March 13th, 1867, he was appointed officer in charge of public buildings, grounds, and works in Washington, being the first officer of the army detailed for that duty. In addition to this, he acted as a member of the board to prepare plans, specifications, and estimates for the new State, War, and Navy Department buildings, was in charge of the Washington aqueduct, improvement of the Potomac River, improvement of Forts Foote and Washington, channel obstructions in the Potomac River, and repairs of Mount Vernon. The lay-

ing of the improved roadways was inaugurated under his supervision, and the many other improvements which add so much to the present beauty of the city are to be attributed to his unfulfilled plans, or the fine taste, skill, and energy displayed during his administration of the office formerly occupied by the Commissioner of Public Buildings. For five years he discharged these duties to the entire satisfaction of the Government and his own high sense of honor; and when, upon the inauguration of a Board of Public Works, and the election of a Governor of the District, he was detached, he carried with him the esteem and affection of the citizens of the beautiful city he loved so well, and whose interests he labored for so earnestly.

He then returned to his old duty in charge of light-houses on the Pacific Coast, as well as Engineer in charge of river and harbor improvements in California, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington Territory, and Engineer on the staff of the General Commanding the Military Division of the Pacific.

In 1876 he was assigned to duty as Superintending Engineer of river and harbor works on Lake Erie. In 1878 he was sent as military attaché to the American Legation at Vienna, to study and report upon the process of Heliogravure for producing maps. His last duty was in New York City in charge of important harbor and river improvements in the States of New York, New Jersey, and Vermont, and though suffering for a short period from an insidious disease, he remained at his post of duty, discharging the same faithfully to the end.

Men of name and rank who pass away are known only to the public by their honorable deeds and services. There are personal qualities that often distinguish them, appreciated alone by those who enjoy the intimacy of their domestic relations. Eminently endowed with all those noble attributes which adorn and enrich social life ; a brave soldier, yet modest and retiring in disposition and manner ; a steadfast friend ; a genial companion ; beloved by the poor and the working-

classes for his ready sympathy and unobtrusive charities, and his delicate appreciation of their necessities. With a kindly spirit for all, and a rare unselfishness, he was willing at any time to yield his own wishes to enhance the happiness of others. Lenient in his judgments he was ever anxious to shield another with the mantle of charity ; and pure in life and purpose, of him it may be truly said that he was without an enemy, for to know him was to love him.

Faithful in every relation of life, the subject of this memoir has left behind the record of a sterling officer and a true Christian gentleman. He rests among his kindred in the beautiful cemetery by the quiet waters of the Bushkill at Easton, the home of his boyhood.

Tears only of remembrance, not regret :  
On his just life the eternal seal is set  
Unbroken till the resurrection day.

—*Craig*.



ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. A.



HEADQUARTERS CORPS OF ENGINEERS,  
UNITED STATES ARMY,

*Washington, D. C., July 29, 1881.*

GENERAL ORDERS, }  
NO. 3. }

It has become the painful duty of the Brigadier-General Commanding to announce to the Corps of Engineers the death of a brother officer, Lieutenant-Colonel *Nathaniel Michler*, Corps of Engineers, Brevet Brigadier-General, United States Army, who died at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., on the 17th instant.

Lieutenant-Colonel *Michler* graduated at the Military Academy and was promoted Brevet Second Lieutenant Topographical Engineers July 1, 1848. He served as Topographical Engineer in making Surveys and Reconnoissances in Texas and New Mexico; on the Mexican Boundary Survey; in charge of surveys for Inter-oceanic Ship Canal from Gulf of Darien to Pacific Ocean, and in running Boundary Line between Maryland and Virginia.

During the late Civil War Lieutenant-Colonel *Michler* served in the field as Engineer Officer, being engaged in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, and Cold Harbor, in the siege of, and battles about, Petersburg, and other engagements of the Army of the Potomac. He was promoted successively from the grade of Lieutenant to that of Lieutenant-Colonel, Corps of Engineers, and received the brevets of Lieutenant-Colonel for faithful and meritorious services in the field, of Colonel for gallant and meritorious services during the siege of Petersburg, and of Brigadier-General for gallant and meritorious services during the Rebellion.

Since the war Lieutenant-Colonel *Michler* has served in making surveys and military maps illustrating the operations



and battle-fields of the armies of the Potomac and James ; as Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds and certain United States improvements in the District of Columbia ; as Chief Engineer on the staff of the General Commanding the Military Division of the Pacific ; in charge of Surveys and River and Harbor Improvements on the Pacific Coast, and in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho ; as Engineer of the 13th Light-house District, and as Superintending Engineer of River and Harbor Works on Lake Erie. At the time of his death Lieutenant-Colonel *Michler* was Superintending Engineer in charge of important works of River and Harbor Improvements in New York, New Jersey, and Vermont.

Lieutenant-Colonel *Michler* will be remembered by the Corps as an officer of sterling worth and loyal devotion to his duties, and by his many friends as a genial and esteemed companion, whose loss will be deeply regretted.

As a testimonial of respect for the deceased the officers of the Corps will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

By command of Brig -Gen. WRIGHT :

H. M. ADAMS,

*Captain of Engineers.*



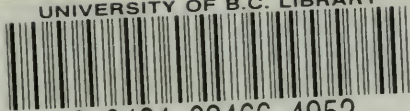


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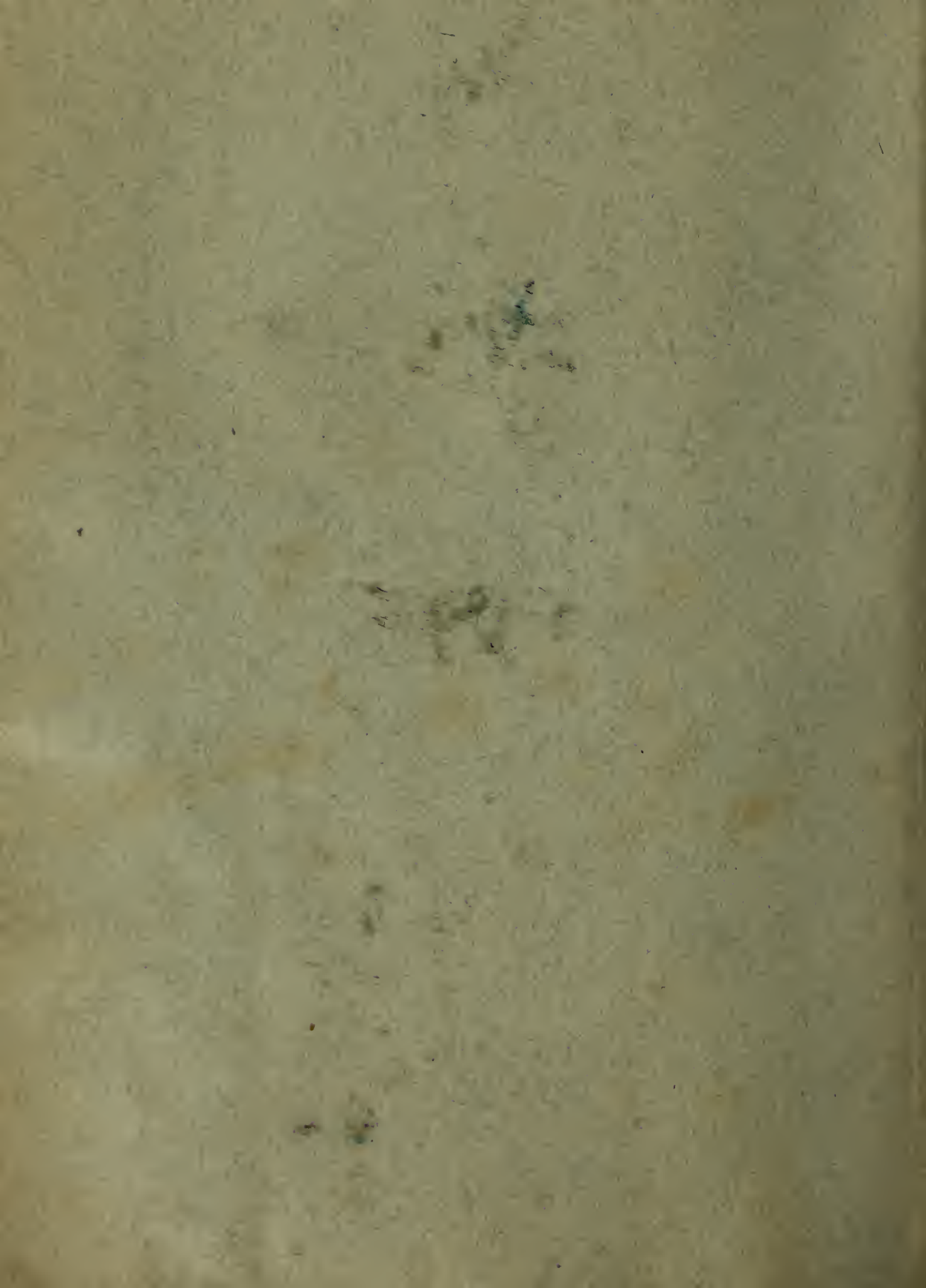
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